

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 135715
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:PDW
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
NEA DISTRIBUTION ONLY
-----111609Z 038671 /44

P 111603Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135715

STADIS/////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/ARN - DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MASS, LE, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE

1. AS INDICATED IN EARLIER CABLE, VELIOTES AND DRAPER CONSULTED WITH STAFF OF HIRC ON JUNE 10 AND WILL HAVE SESSION WITH SENATE STAFF ON MONDAY, JUNE 13. STAFF MEMBERS WERE GRATEFUL WE SHARED WITH THEM OUR PRELIMINARY THINKING. THEY WERE APPREHENSIVE THAT WE MIGHT BE COMMITTING OURSELVES TO A LONG-TERM, SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THAT WOULD GO ON ENDLESSLY. THEY ALSO WERE INTERESTED IN POSSIBLE ISRAELI REACTIONS TO THE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN LEBANON.

2. IN SUMMARY, HOWEVER, THEY DID NOT RPT NOT OBJECT AND IN FACT APPEARED TO ACCEPT BASIC CONCEPT OF A DOLS 25 MILLION FMS CREDIT PROGRAM IN FY 1977, DOLS 50 MILLION IN CONFIDENTIAL

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FMS CREDITS RPT CREDITS THROUGH A SUPPLEMENTAL IN FY 1978, AND A REDUCTION TO A MORE MODEST PROGRAM IN FY 1979 OF, SAY, DOLS 25 MILLION IN CREDIT. OUR PRESENTATION WAS COUCHED IN TERMS OF PROVIDING THE WHEREWITHAL FOR THREE LIGHT MECHANIZED INFANTRY BATTALIONS OR ONE BRIGADE, OF SOME 3,000 MEN. THEY ALSO APPEARED ACCEPT SUB;TANTIAL IMET (GRANT) FUNDING FOR TRAINING (500,000 DOLS IN FY 1978).

3. ALL STAFFERS CLEARLY WERE NEGATIVE TO GRANT PROGRAMS
OF ANY KIND OR SCOPE, INCLUDING FOR THE UNIFORMS.

4. STAFFERS PROMISED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH KEY COMMITTEE
MEMBERS AND ADVISE US AS TO NEXT STEPS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE135715
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:PDW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770209-0524
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770665/aaaacfil.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1b55e57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2183264
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
TAGS: PINT, MASS, LE, US
To: BEIRUT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1b55e57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009